(a) the number of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools sanctioned in the State of Orissa;

(b) the amount of recurring and non-recurring funds released so far;

(c) whether a proposal for opening twenty more such schools has been received by Government from Orissa; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ten Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) have been sanctioned in the State of Orissa.

(b) The Ministry has released Rs. 1360.00 lakhs towards recurring and Rs. 2500.00 lakhs towards non-recurring expenditure for EMRS to Govt. of Orissa from 1997-98 until November, 2006.

(c) and (d) The State Govt. of Orissa has sent proposals for opening of 6 more EMRS in the State. However, as the total number of EMRSs to be sanctioned during the Ninth and Tenth Plan periods for the entire country was fixed at 100, Orissa's share of schools was fixed at 10, and these schools have already been sanctioned.

Funds for tribal welfare

2854. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated for tribal welfare are being diverted by the States for their purposes;

(b) if so, the names of States which are diverting funds allocated for tribal welfare;

(c) the steps Government contemplate to take to stop such diversion of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No information of diversion of funds allocated for tribal welfare by any State Government has been reported to this Ministry during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The funds released to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are expected to be utilized within 12 months from the closure of the financial year. In order to ensure that the funds released under the schemes of the Ministry are utilized properly and expeditiously, the Ministry insists on utilisation certificates before releasing any further funds. The Ministry also regularly monitors the implementation of various tribal welfare schemes through review meetings with the State Government officials.

Polavaram Irrigation Project

2855. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted Polavaram Irrigation Project proposal for clearance to his Ministry;

(b) whether the proposal received from the State Government;

(c) whether his Ministry had started the exercise for clearance of the project; and

(d) the time-frame by which the project would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) A proposal for clearance of Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan for Scheduled Tribes Project Affected Families in respect of Polavaram Irrigation Project of Andhra Pradesh was received. The proposal has been examined. The project involves the States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh as well. The inter-state issues are required to be resolved by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. In addition, the State Governments concerned are also required to fulfill the statutory requirement prescribed under Section 4(i) of